

Rain Garden
Clean-up, p.16



American Legion
Awards, p.6

Building a Better Learning Environment in Our Schools

by Colleen Crowley

Remedial education, inequity in resource allocation and plans for the future for Prince George's County Public Schools were major talking points at the educational forum held on Sunday, April 28 at the Community Center. Dr. Alvin Thornton, chair of the county's board of education,

spoke with citizens and presented the board's plans for improving education throughout the school district, the second-largest in the state.

"We're trying to maintain the revolutionary, progressive, nationally-recognized legacy that emerged from Bridge to Excellence," said Thornton, referencing the 2002 legislation passed by the State Assembly, which required PGCPs to create an educational master plan.

Overcrowding and the structural age of the public schools were a major concern of many attendees, including Mayor Emmett Jordan, who said they were the two biggest challenges facing schools in Greenbelt and elsewhere in northern Prince George's County.

"We all know we must build an environment where our children

See **SCHOOLS**, page 9



PHOTO BY COLLEEN CROWLEY

Alvin Thornton, Chair of the county Board of Education, presents plans for the future.

Maglev Route Deliberations: Decision Due This Summer

by Theresa Diffendal

Greenbelt convened a special town meeting last Thursday to discuss updates to the magnetic-levitation train whose planned path will run under part of the city. While significant changes have been made to potential routes since the project managers began garnering public comments, some Greenbelt residents still view it as lacking in benefits to the city.

Baltimore-Washington Rapid Rail Project Director David Henley gave a project presentation at the meeting to an audience of about 20, including Mayor Emmett Jordan and Councilmembers Judith Davis, Leta Mach, Edward Putens and Rodney Roberts.

Of the 14 original route options, three remain: a west route,

See **MAGLEV**, page 13

Budget 2019

The Rest of City Budget Story Where Does City Get Funds?

by Diane Oberg

Thanks in part to City Manager Nicole Ard's proposed 1.5 cent increase in the city's property tax, her proposed budget is balanced but facing pressure on several fronts. The Greenbelt City Council met with Ard, Treasurer Jeff Williams and other city staff to discuss Fiscal Year 2020 revenues on March 27.

Short-term Rentals

One new source will bring in some additional revenue starting in January 2020. The county has passed legislation permitting and regulating the hotel/motel tax for short-term rentals of owner-occupied properties through services,

such as Airbnb, beginning in calendar year 2020. County law still prohibits short-term renting of properties that are not owner-occupied.

Williams noted that he had not yet read the legislation but expected it would act similarly to the existing hotel/motel tax. Property owners wishing to participate in one of the services facilitating short-term leasing must register with the county. The county will handle registration and enforcement. The services will now be required to send a report to the county. The

See **BUDGET**, page 7

CCI Health Care Agency Moves To Larger, Welcoming Space

by Melissa Sites



PHOTO BY BEVERLY PALAU

Staff of the Maryland Community Clinic Health & Wellness Services aided by Mayor Emmett Jordan officially opens their new, expanded location in Greenway Center. More space, Saturday hours and proximity to medical practitioners in the center are just a few advantages of the new office.

Este artículo está disponible en español en nuestra página web www.greenbeltnewsreview.com.

Maryland Community Clinic Health & Wellness Services (CCI) has opened a new location at 7474 Greenway Center Drive. CCI, a nonprofit, community-based health care agency, has operated in our area since 1996. Services available at the new clinic include medical and behavioral health services.

"We took the opportunity to find a better and bigger space to create a welcoming environment for our patients," explained Chief Administrative Officer Jose Luis Diaz. "Our goal is to be the place of choice for the Greenbelt community," he added. Taking advantage of expiring leases, the office moved from Edmonston Road to Greenway Center, which offers many medical practitioners nearby to whom patients may easily be referred.

CCI also administers the federally-funded Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program. For over 30 years, this program has provided nutrition and health education, referrals to other health and social agencies and free healthy food to

pregnant women, new mothers, infants and children under age five who qualify in Montgomery and Prince George's Counties. WIC participants also learn tips for healthy pregnancy, the benefits and how-tos of breastfeeding and how to promote healthy eating habits for their children and families incorporating WIC food. According to cciweb.org, applying for WIC benefits starts with calling to make an appointment. Only parents and legal guardians can apply for WIC. Eligibility is based on income. All family members applying for WIC services must apply in person, along

with required documentation.

The Greenway Center clinic is open Monday through Saturday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and until 6:30 p.m. most Thursdays; call 240-624-2278 to make an appointment or for additional details. The Greenway Center WIC office is open on the second and fourth Saturdays from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Another Greenbelt location, at 9220 Springhill Lane, 240-790-3325, offers family planning, prenatal care and dental services. This office is not open on Saturdays. An expanded list of area locations and services is found at cciweb.org/locations/.



PHOTO BY GARY CHILDS

Hey batta batta batta.... The Greenbelt Cubs catcher and a left-handed Laurel Red Sox hitter await the pitch Tuesday evening at McDonald Field. See story, page 15.

What Goes On

Monday, May 6
7:30 p.m. Budget Worksession, Recreation, Municipal Building
Wednesday, May 8
7 p.m. ACE Student Awards, Municipal Building

Letters to the Editor

I Share Your Grief

To my Jewish friends and neighbors in Greenbelt, I want to first say that I, and many in the community, share your grief over what occurred in the Poway, Calif., synagogue as worshipers observed the last day of Passover. It is unthinkable that anyone would do such a thing, and yet it happens much too often.

I attended a Faith Gathering last night at the Diyanet Center of America in Lanham, where an Islamic mosque is located. One of the invited speakers was Rabbi Saul Oresky of Mishkan Torah. I was touched and saddened by what he had to say. He said that we all must be vigilant against such attacks. He also said that he must now keep the doors of his synagogue locked, even during times of worship. I've been thinking of this all day, and I can't help but see parallels to the days leading up to the Holocaust. What have we become? And what of the 14 million Allied soldiers who died during World War II to "make sure this never happened again"?

And now it is not just our Jewish neighbors, but Muslim, Hindu, Christian, Buddhist ... no-one is safe today, even in our respective houses of worship. And those who would do these evils are being strengthened by our political leaders' rhetoric and lack of will to do anything about it.

I would like to be able to say to the members of Mishkan Torah, and those of all faiths, that this could never happen in Greenbelt, but I am not that naïve. I know that the people in Poway, in Pittsburgh, in Sri Lanka, in New Zealand and more never thought it would happen to them either. I can say, however, that I PRAY that this will never happen in Greenbelt. May we all learn to live in peace.

Tim Uber

Enforce Traffic Laws

According to the News Review's excellent article on the Public Safety budget for fiscal year 2020 (Violent and Property Crimes Decrease in 2018, Police Say, April 25, 2019), the number of personal injury traffic crashes (116 incidents, including two fatalities) was almost as high as the number of violent crimes (117) in 2018. Likewise, the number of property damage traffic crashes in Greenbelt (1,099) was actually higher than the number of non-traffic related property crimes (723).

In Prince George's County as

a whole, road fatalities now outnumber homicides.

Although some traffic crashes may be pure accidents or driver errors, I think the vast majority of injuries and property damage from crashes are due to traffic crimes: speeding, recklessness, failing to signal or yield, impairment, distracted driving. We see the evidence on the roads all the time, with upside-down cars on the trail behind the library, cars on their sides against light poles on Greenbelt Road, people hit in crosswalks, and so on.

A small subset of heedless drivers is putting us all at risk, and I am bit disheartened that the police statistics seem to consider these criminals as somehow less dangerous than others.

I urge the Greenbelt Police (and other law enforcement agencies) not to "normalize" criminally unsafe driving, and to emphasize traffic crime enforcement as a key part of our public safety mission.

Jeff Lemieux

Oppose HR 7236

Pending before Congress is a bill that would prevent you from suing the telecom industry in the event that you develop cancer or some other illness due to exposure from cell transmitter radiation. The adverse biological effects of radiation from cell transmitters is well documented in the scientific literature. You can find many of these studies at ehtrust.org. Cognizant of this danger, Brussels, Belgium has taken the step of banning 5G transmitters.

Aware of the potential for harm and massive civil lawsuits, the telecom industry is pushing HR 7236 which would exempt them from being sued for harm caused by their technology. The insurance industry, also aware of the harm, will not insure telecom against such lawsuits. Immune from the threat of lawsuits, telecom will have little incentive to make their technology as safe as possible.

As these cell transmitters will soon be making an appearance near your door, you may wish to write to your Congressperson and ask him/her to vote against this legislation, as there will be massive pressure from telecom to vote for it. Local area representatives are Steny Hoyer and Anthony Brown. Both may be emailed via their websites. The text of the bill is easily found by plugging HR 7236 into the search

See **LETTERS**, page 6

Corrections

The article about violent and property crime statistics in last week's paper was not written by James Giese, but rather compiled by him from city budget documents.

The last name of the local author of a book about rock and roll was misspelled in the caption under his photograph in last week's News Review. It should be spelled Opsasnick.

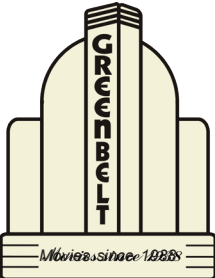
The last name of the writer/director of The Honey Trap was also misspelled. It should be spelled Stepowany.

Se Habla Español

Vaya a nuestra página web greenbeltnewsreview.com para ver artículos en español.



See our website, greenbeltnewsreview.com, for articles in Spanish.



Old Greenbelt Theatre
129 Centerway
301-329-2034
www.greenbelttheatre.org

Members Always \$6.50!
Members' Kids Free!

Adults \$9, Kids \$6,
Senior/Student \$8

All shows before 5 PM:
Adults \$7, Kids \$5

OC = Open Captions
CC = Closed Captions
DVS = Descriptive Video Service

SHOWTIMES
May 3rd - May 9th

RED JOAN
(R) (CC) (DVS)
(2019) (110 mins)
Fri. 2:30, 5:00, 7:30 pm
Sat. 2:30, 5:00, 7:30 pm
Sun. 2:30 (OC), 5:00 pm
Mon. 5:00, 7:30 pm
Tues. 5:00, 7:30 pm
Wed. 2:30, 5:00, 7:30 pm
Thurs. 5:00, 7:30 pm

THE MAN WHO KNEW
TOO MUCH
(PG) (1956) (120 mins)
Mon. 1:00 PM - FREE!



PHOTO BY SUSAN HARRIS

Trees bloom in GHI.

Send Us Your High Resolution Photos!

The News Review encourages readers to send in photos of Greenbelt landmarks, activities and the changing seasons. Photos should be at least 300 dpi, and must include the name of the photographer and a caption. The caption must name any identifiable people in the photo, as well as explain the picture.

If you are sending photos from your phone, please choose the option to send "actual size", or upload the photos to your computer first and then email the photos at full size. Send photos to editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com.



LOOKING FOR PROOFERS

To proofread the paper
on Wednesday afternoons

Email editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com or call Sue at 301-474-2219.



Greenbelt News Review

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15 Crescent Road, Suite 100, Greenbelt, Maryland 20770-1887

Phone: 301-474-4131; Fax: 301-965-8247

editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com (stories, letters, photos)

ads@greenbeltnewsreview.com (ads)

business@greenbeltnewsreview.com (billing)

website: www.greenbeltnewsreview.com

Community Calendar: www.greenbeltnewsreview.com/calendar

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DEADLINES: Letters, Articles and Classified Ads - 8 p.m. Tuesday. Display Ads 4 p.m. Monday, 8 p.m. Tuesday if camera ready. Materials for publication may be mailed to address above, deposited in our box in the Co-op grocery store (by 7 p.m. Tuesday) or brought to our office in the Community Center, 15 Crescent Road, during office hours. Mail subscriptions—\$50/year.

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.
OFFICE HOURS: Monday 2 - 4 p.m., Tuesday 2 - 4, 6 -10 p.m.

On Screen

The Spy Next Door

Dame Judi Dench plays elderly widow Joan Stanley, whose quiet life in suburban London is shattered when she's arrested for treason in Red Joan, opening Friday, May 3. What follows is an extraordinary story of love and intrigue that exposes Joan as the KGB's longest-serving spy. As a naïve young physics student at Cambridge University in the 1930s, she fell for Leo (played by Tom Hughes), a handsome young Russian communist. During World War II and after, she is a member of a secret team of scientists at a top-secret facility developing the atom bomb. Leo and his comrades convince her that leaking intel will prevent a devastating war. If both sides have nuclear capabilities, they won't annihilate each other. Her defense: She had to betray her country to save those she loved. The film asks: Did she save us from World War III, or was she simply a deluded pawn in an international game? Inspired by a true story.

Rated R, running time 110 minutes

- Sandy Rodgers

Obituaries

Dorothy Kirk Noël



Dorothy Kirk Noël

Dorothy Kirk Noël died March 4, 2019, in Silver Spring at the age of 96. She was born September 12, 1922 in Columbus, Ohio, the daughter of Harry J. Kirk and Kathryn Schindler Kirk of Defiance, Ohio. Born the fifth of seven children, six girls and one boy, Dorothy grew up in Defiance until the age of eight. In June 1931 her father bought a used Willys Knight Touring car and moved his wife and children to Washington, D.C.

Two of her sisters became members of the Carmelite Monastery: Sister Kathleen Kirk of the Holy Family with the Carmelite Monastery in Towson, Md., and Sister Teresa of the Immaculate Heart of Mary at the Carmelite Monastery in North Philadelphia, Pa. Her brother was the Rev. Daniel Kirk of the order of St. Benedict at Saint Anselm's Abbey in Washington, D.C.

On October 15, 1949 Dorothy married Joseph Laurence Noël, Jr. at St. Anthony's Church, in Washington D.C., and not long afterward settled in Greenbelt where they raised their eight children.

Dorothy was married to her husband for nearly 50 years until his death on October 10, 1999. He was a longtime Washington area race official and member of the District of Columbia Road Runners Club. Dorothy experienced the life of a runner's widow on many weekends.

Dorothy was glad when, once a summer, her husband would take some of the kids camping for a week and she could enjoy some quiet with only a couple of youngsters left to care for. When the family was younger they would take summer vacations at the Maryland or Delaware shore or road trips with the whole gang piled into the station wagon for a

day trip. What seat belts? She always had dinner on the table for her family of 10 and stories abound about those evenings. The dishes were assigned to the one that acted up – a sure way to keep the peace. Mornings were hectic with eight kids in school but breakfast and lunches were made before heading off to their respective schools.

She always had homemade cookies in a jar on the counter. These later became known as Grandma's cookies with the grandchildren. Nobody made them like her.

Dorothy was a graduate of Dunbarton College, Washington, D.C., with teaching credentials from Wilson Teachers College. She was a primary school teacher at the Brookland Elementary School for two years before her first child was born.

Dorothy was a regular at the Greenbelt swimming pool. She was a life-long swimmer until age 94. She continued this aquatic discipline at Riderwood Village when she moved there in 2004.

In 1987 she moved with her husband Larry Noël to Emmitsburg, Md., where many happy times were enjoyed with her 16 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

A devout Catholic her whole life, she was a eucharistic minister and active in the Cana Club at St. Hugh's parish in Greenbelt and active in prayer groups in St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Emmitsburg and in later years at Resurrection Parish in Burtonsville.

She is predeceased by her parents, her husband and siblings Sister Kathleen Kirk, Lucille (Joseph) Woods, Kathleen (Jack) Wright, Rev. Daniel Kirk, Sister Teresa and Gertrude (Bernard) Meehan.

She is survived by her eight children: J. Laurence Noël III (Patti), Gettysburg, Pa., Margaret Mary Black (James), Olney, Md., Michael J. Noël (Susette),

Petaluma, Calif., William F. Noël (Merl), Kilmarnock, Va., Harry K. Noël (Nancy), Marlton, N.J., John A. Noël (Teace), Shepherdstown, W.Va., Thomas Noël, Greenbelt, and Rita M. Noël, Silver Spring.

A private Funeral Mass, with family, was held Friday, March 8. A celebration of life is being planned for Saturday, June 29 from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Resurrection Catholic Church (Amadeo Room- downstairs), 3315 Greencastle Road, Burtonsville. All who knew Dorothy are welcome to attend. Lunch and refreshments will be provided. RSVP the number in your party attending by May 29 to Harry Noël, harrynoel1@gmail.com or text Harry at 609-320-7009. Memorial contributions can be made to St. Anselm's Abbey, 4501 South Dakota Avenue NE, Washington, DC 20017; or Carmelite Monastery Baltimore, 1318 Dulaney Valley Rd, Towson, MD 21286; or Carmelite Monastery Philadelphia, 1400 66th Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19126.

Thomas Noël

Gail Phillips

There will be a memorial gathering for Gail Phillips at Mishkan Torah on Sunday, May 5 at 2 p.m.



Catholic
Community
of Greenbelt
MASS

Sundays 10 A.M.
Municipal Building
ALL ARE WELCOME.

Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church
40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt

Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors

Find us on [facebook.com/mowattumc](https://www.facebook.com/mowattumc)

301-474-9410

Rev. Fay Lundin, Pastor

Worship Service 10 a.m.
Mercy triumphs over judgement.

Never put a period where a comma should be . . .

Greenbelt Community Church
 UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
a just world for all

Whoever you are and wherever you
are on your Spiritual journey, you
are welcome HERE.

1 Hillside Road, Greenbelt 301-474-6171 Rev. Glenyce Grindstaff

Join Us Sunday at 10:15 for
"Casting Nets"
John 21:1-19

ST. HUGH OF GRENOBLE CATHOLIC CHURCH
135 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770
301-474-4322



Mass Schedule:
Sunday 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 a.m.
Saturday 9:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m.
Daily Mass: 7:15 a.m.

Sacrament of Penance: Saturday 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Pastor: Rev. Walter J. Tappe

Good Ramadan!



The holiday of Ramadan is a month-long observance which will begin on May 5 and run through June 4. During the month, Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset, recite verses from the Quran, and attend prayers.

Danny Abebe
Memorial Services

Two memorial services will be held this weekend. On Friday, May 3, a candlelight vigil will be held at Roosevelt Center from 6 to 8 p.m. Candles will be distributed at 7:30 p.m.

On Sunday, May 5, the memorial service will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. at Buddy Attick Park. Candles will be distributed between 8 and 8:15 p.m. Food will be available on pot luck basis. Park rangers will be available to help with the large number of persons expected.



"There is no force on earth can equal in its conquering power the force of justice and wisdom." - Baha'i Writings

Greenbelt Baha'i Community

1-800-22-UNITE 301-345-2918
Greenbelt.Bahai.Info@gmail.com www.greenbeltbahais.org

Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church

3215 Powder Mill Road, Adelphi
Phone: 301-937-3666 www.pbuuc.org



Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community



May 5 10 a.m.

CLIMATE CHANGE - IT'S UP TO US

The PBUUC Green Sanctuary Committee; with Clark Ritz and Samantha Evans,
Worship Associates; Flute Quartet

There are things each of us can do to reduce our carbon footprint.
Collectively, we can make a difference!

Mishkan Torah Congregation



10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770
Rabbi Saul Oresky Cantor Phil Greenfield

An unpretentious, historic, welcoming, liberal,
egalitarian synagogue that respects tradition and
becomes your extended family in the 21st century.

Friday evening services 8:00 PM
Saturday morning services at 9:30 AM.
Children's Education, Adult Education, Social Action, etc.

For further information call 301 474-4223 www.mishkantorah.org
Conservative and Reconstructionist

Christian Science Church

8300 Adelphi Road,
Hyattsville, MD

"I will make a man more precious
than fine gold." Isaiah 13

Sunday School 10:30 a.m.
Church Service 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday meeting 7:30 p.m.



Worship with us at
Greenbelt Baptist
Church

Biblical
Confessional
Reformed
Gospel Centered

Sunday School Worship Service Evening Service
9:15 am 10:30 am 6:00 pm

<<101 Greenhill Rd. Greenbelt MD>>
www.greenbeltbaptist.org
301-474-4212
[@GreenbeltBaptist](https://www.instagram.com/GreenbeltBaptist)

At the Library
English Conversation
Tuesday, May 7, 6 p.m. Learning to speak English? Join a club to practice speaking English in a friendly atmosphere with people from diverse backgrounds.

Ready 2 Read Storytimes
Tuesday, May 7, ages 3 to 5, 7 p.m., limit 30 people. Wednesday, May 8, ages newborn to 2, 10:15 a.m., limit 15 babies with parent(s)/caregiver(s); ages 2 to 3, 11:15 a.m., limit 30 people. Thursday, May 9, ages newborn to 2, 10:15 and 11:15 a.m., limit 15 babies with parent(s)/caregiver(s).

African Lecture Series
Tuesday, May 7, 7 p.m. The African Origins of Christianity will be the first session of the Spring 2019 season in the audiovisual African History and Culture lecture series presented by historian C.R. Gibbs. Other sessions will be presented on Tuesday evenings through May 21.

Kids Achieve Club
Wednesday, May 8, 4:30 p.m. Mentoring, reading and homework help for students in grades 1 to 6.

French Conversation
Thursday, May 9, 5 p.m. Learning to speak French? Join a club and practice speaking French in a friendly atmosphere.

GHI Notes
Thursday, May 2, 10 a.m., Storm Water Management Task Force Meeting, Board Room; 7:45 p.m., Board of Directors Meeting, Board Room.
Friday, May 3, office closed. Emergency maintenance service available at 301-474-6011.
Monday, May 6, 7 p.m., Pre-purchase Orientation, Board Room.
Wednesday, May 8, 7 p.m., Member Outreach Committee Meeting, GHI Lobby; 7:30 p.m., Architectural Review Committee Meeting, Board Room.
Thursday, May 9, 7:30 p.m., GHI Annual Membership Meeting, Greenbelt Community Center.
Friday, May 10, 7 to 10 a.m. and 5 to 8 p.m., GHI Elections, GHI Administration Building.

Utopia Film Festival Seeks Volunteers
The Utopia Film Festival, now in its 15th year, is beginning to screen films from around the world for inclusion in the festival. Volunteer to assist in screening films for this multicultural event. Get to know the community and neighbors and celebrate the diversity that is Greenbelt and the world. Utopia will be held mid-November this year. Films are screened Monday evenings at 7:30 p.m. between now and September. For more information, call 301-466-9524.

Holy Cross Thrift Store

Every Thursday
10am – 4pm

Good, clean clothes for women, men and children!
Shoes, jewelry, books, etc.

6905 Greenbelt Road
Greenbelt, Md. **301-345-5111**



City Information & Events

MEETINGS FOR MAY 6-10

Monday, May 6 at 7:30pm, **BUDGET WORK SESSION re: Recreation** at Municipal Building, 25 Crescent Road. *Live on Verizon 21, Comcast 71 and 996 and Streaming on www.greenbeltmd.gov/municipaltv*

Tuesday, May 7 at 7:00pm, **ARTS ADVISORY BOARD** at Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Road. *On the Agenda: 4. Review of application from The S.P.A.C.E. for Recognition Group status; recommendation to Council needed; Possible display of student artwork in the City Council chambers, Planning for the next Arts Advisory Board community arts mixer*

Wednesday, May 8 at 7:00pm, **ACE STUDENT AWARDS** at Municipal Building, 25 Crescent. *Live on Verizon 21, Comcast 71 & 996, and Streaming at www.greenbeltmd.gov/municipaltv*

Thursday, May 9 at 2:00pm, **ETHICS COMMISSION** at Municipal Building, 25 Crescent. *On the Agenda: Review of Financial Interest Reports, and Review of Financial Disclosure Statements*

Thursday, May 9 at 7:30pm, **COMMUNITY RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD**, at Municipal Building, 25 Crescent. *On the Agenda: Community Feedback, Report on City Holiday Decorating Contest, and Referral on Community Cleanup Program*
This schedule is subject to change. For confirmation that a meeting is being held call 301-474-8000.

**CITY OF GREENBELT
NOTICE OF A PROPOSED REAL
PROPERTY TAX INCREASE**

The City Council of the City of Greenbelt proposes to increase real property taxes.

1. For the tax year beginning July 1, 2019, the estimated real property assessable base will increase by 1.75%, from \$1,975,095,471 to \$2,009,637,243
2. If the City of Greenbelt, Maryland maintains the current tax rate of \$0.8125 per \$100 of assessment, real property tax revenues will increase by 1.75%, resulting in \$280,652 of new real property tax revenues.
3. In order to fully offset the effect of increasing assessments, the real property tax rate should be reduced to \$0.7985, the constant yield tax rate.
4. The City is considering not reducing its real property tax rate enough to offset increasing assessments. The City proposes to adopt a real property tax rate of \$0.8275 per \$100 of assessment. This tax rate is 3.63% higher than the constant yield tax rate and will generate \$582,097 in additional property tax revenues.

A public hearing on the proposed real property tax increase will be held at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, May 28, 2019, in the City Council Room, Municipal Building, 25 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770.

The hearing is open to the public, and public testimony is encouraged.

Persons with questions regarding this hearing may call the City Clerk at 301-474-8000 for further information.



Parent's Night Out
Greenbelt Community Center
15 Crescent Road
Friday, May 10, 5:30-8:30pm
Activity #233222-3
Children ages 4-12 enjoy art activities and a pizza dinner while you have a night out!
\$20 Greenbelt residents/ \$25 non-residents

VACANCIES ON BOARDS & COMMITTEES
Volunteer to serve on City Council Advisory Groups. There are currently vacancies on: Arts Advisory Board, Board of Elections, Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability, Park and Recreation Advisory Board, and Youth Advisory Committee. Info: 301-474-8000

JOIN THE PROUD MEN AND WOMEN OF THE GREENBELT POLICE DEPARTMENT



The Greenbelt Police Department is widely reaching out to people of all backgrounds who want to make a difference in their community. Find out exactly how rewarding it can be to serve as a guardian of your community. Greenbelt Police officers work every day to help those in need, dealing with issues from the most mundane to life altering.

Join the Greenbelt Police Department and make a difference.

If you know someone who is ready to start a new, rewarding career, have them contact one of our recruiters at 240-542-2143 to learn more about how they can serve their community.

ZERO WASTING THE GREEN MAN FESTIVAL



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!
May 11 – May 12
Help the City of Greenbelt with keeping the Greenbelt Green Man Festival green!

Volunteers will stand near sets of waste bins to help festival goers recycle the recyclables, compost the compostables, and trash the trash.

The festival will be held at Roosevelt Center
101 Centerway Greenbelt, MD

We will be glad to sign any community-service forms!
Please sign up for the time slots that you will be available at www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0d4caaad2fabff2-zero

BIKE TO WORK DAY 2019
Greenbelt Aquatic & Fitness Center
parking lot
101 Centerway
Friday, May 17,
6:30am-8:30am

bike to work day 2019

Commuter Connections and the Washington Area Bicyclist Association invites you to join over 20,000 area commuters for a celebration of bicycling as a clean, fun and healthy way to get to work. Refreshments will be provided to registered participants arriving by bike. Register at biketoworkmetrodc.org; Pit Stop Manager: Di Quynn Reno, 240-542-2053.

RECYCLING 101 - FREE WORKSHOP
Saturday, May 4 from 12-1pm
New Deal Cafe, 113 Centerway
Are you confused about what to put in your recycling bin? Learn about what to recycle and where.
Join Sustainability Coordinator, Luisa Robles for a show and tell of what goes in your recycling bin and other places to recycle.
Thank you to the New Deal Cafe for hosting.

Follow the City of Greenbelt on Facebook and Twitter @cityofgreenbelt
City information and events visit www.greenbeltmd.gov

Letters continued

engine and that will take you to a link to Congress.gov.

Bill Manico

Alzheimer's Care

I read the Critical Missing Person Project article in the News Review's April 25 edition. The article talked about the increase in citizens that have wandered away from their home in Greenbelt in 2018. I cannot imagine what it would be like to live with someone who had a cognitive impairment and was prone to wander. I am sure it is both frustrating and heartbreaking to watch. First, I want to sing my praises to Waynette Trammell for taking care of her mother. Caregiving can be one of the most rewarding and meaningful things a person can do. It can also be physically exhausting and emotionally draining and can even take a toll on the caregiver's health. I work with dementia patients and I am inspired to see the devoted, selfless caregiving that occurs.

I would like to comment briefly on Trammell's assessment of how to handle a situation when someone with Alzheimer's disease is confused. She mentioned that her mother cannot properly differentiate her own ideas from reality, and she stated that, "You can't do anything about it other than try to convince her it doesn't exist."

In Alzheimer's disease and dementias, cells in the brain are damaged and stop working properly. The damage gets worse over time and cannot be reversed. As the disease progresses, the person's intellectual and developmental level regresses. They are no longer able to comprehend or understand as they have in the past. The person gradually loses their ability to reason. So, we cannot keep communicating with a person who has dementia as if their brain is working perfectly.

It is our natural tendency to want to try and correct a person in order to help them. Arguing or trying to get a person with dementia to understand the truth usually causes confrontation and increased anxiety for everyone. The Alzheimer's Association suggests that caregivers resist the urge to argue, correct or reason with the person but rather accept their sense of reality. What they are feeling and experiencing is real to them, whether it is true or not. I encourage caregivers to enter the world as their loved one sees it and to let go of the expectation that the person with dementia will acknowledge that they are wrong. We could spend the better part of a day discussing scenarios and strategies for coping with wandering. A great resource for caregivers, friends and families of a person with dementia is the Alzheimer's Association at www.alz.org. The website provides information, suggestions and a Caregiver Center for caregivers and families.

The Alzheimer's Association serves families with all types of dementia not just Alzheimer's disease. One of their services is a 24/7 Helpline that provides support to all those who need assistance in both Spanish and English. Call toll free anytime day or night at 1-800-272-3900.

Dawn Warner

BWRR Maglev Update Meeting near Earth Day

The BWRR Maglev update meeting before city council last Thursday reminded me of the need for developing green technology and mass transit that utilizes little or no fossil fuels. The proposed SCMaglev will operate (in late 2020s and beyond) on electricity and superconducting magnets along its dedicated guideway from renewable energy sources (wind, solar, bio-mass, hydroelectric) as Maryland and other states rely increasingly on renewables for energy production.

This part of the proposed Green New Deal needs to become reality as finite fossil fuels become more scarce, more expensive to access, and with the compounding of carbon content in Earth's atmosphere. The Earth Day article in the Washington Post magazine a few weeks ago highlighted the alarming trends and consequences of fossil fuels use.

The previous Sunday (04/21) Washington Post editorialized in favor of Gov. Hogan's plan to add additional lanes to Maryland's portion of the Beltway. The article mentioned that the D.C. region's population is set to grow an additional 1.5 million by 2045. As traffic along the Northeast and Baltimore-Washington corridor also increases there will be pressure to add lanes to the BW Parkway (295) and I-95. The SCMaglev will help alleviate traffic in this corridor, lessening the need for additional parkway lanes.

Robert Snyder

Thank You

This is a belated thank you to the News Review staff and spe-

cifically Mary Lou Williamson, Amy Hansen and Sandra Lange who collaborated on the wonderful tribute to my mother, Dr. Virginia W. Beauchamp which ran on the front page, February 21 following her death on February 10. She came close to achieving 99 years on this earth.

Our family had tentatively started planning a spring memorial service for the Saturday preceding Mother's Day and having given this date verbally to enough Greenbelt "family," perhaps a new "save the date" for Saturday, September 28, 2019, is in order.

Our plans for her memorial service in the fall, or "celebration of life," which new date seems to work better for some who loved her, will take place at the University of Maryland main chapel in the early afternoon, followed by a tea, and officiated by Senior Leader Amanda Poppei of the Washington Ethical Society (WES). A more formal announcement with specific start time will be made closer to that date.

WES was first led by my grandfather (Virginia's father-in-law) beginning in the late 1940s and is a religious organization to which she belonged. Both she and he were early pioneers in civil rights, ending segregation, anti-Semitism and other inhumane exclusionary treatment of any people of any faith, race or nationality. Thus my mother's service will be ecumenical, appropriate to any faith teaching, practice or custom, or for any human.

I wish to personally thank all of those who have expressed condolences on our loss of our lovely and beloved matriarch. We are still trying to cope. Thank you for your understanding.

Edith J. Beauchamp



PHOTO COURTESY OF EDITH BEAUCHAMP

October 1946 - American Red Cross Club, Yamagata, Japan: Virginia Walcott (later Beauchamp) organized a tea ceremony. This was a year after the end of WWII. She was 26, and serving with the Red Cross, running a club for US servicemen.

American Legion Conducts Post Everlasting Ceremony

by Butch Hicks



PHOTO BY BUTCH HICKS

The Post Everlasting Honor Guard represents each of the military services where Post Everlasting honorees served. From left: Army -Steve Messer, Marine Corps - John Hill, Navy - Dennis Wolfrey, Air Force - Larry Buck, Sons of the American Legion - Jerry Darnell.

Kelly Ivy was among 26 Greenbelt American Legion Family deceased members who were honored in Post Everlasting ceremonies held Sunday at Post 136. Ivy, who was known in Greenbelt as a community activist, youth sports enthusiast and coach, and devoted family supporter was also a member of the Post's Sons of the American Legion Squadron 136.

Post Everlasting is an annual, solemn event to commemorate the sacrifice and service of former Legionnaires, Sons of the American Legion and Auxiliary members who died during the past year. "Their American Legion association and service to America is acknowledged today by their families, friends and Post members," said Post 136 Commander Greg Gigliotti. "Each individual's military service contributed to our country's security, their volunteerism improved communities and unlimited devotion bonded their families."

Throughout the service, the Hometown USA Chorus provided songs appropriate to parts of the ceremony. In addition to memorial service prayers and acknowledgements, an Honor Guard, including members of the Navy, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, Army, Air Force or Sons of the American Legion, moved to the Honor Platform, gave a slow, honors salute, placed a uniform cap on a cross or Star of David and then stood at attention. Upon completion of honor platform cap placement, taps echoed throughout Hofberg Hall. One family member, whose father

was among the Post Everlasting honorees said, "I was doing okay until taps. I was warned that taps could be an emotional trigger and it was for me. I was happy my family saw such a beautiful ceremony by the American Legion acknowledging my father's Legion membership and military service."

Before the Hometown USA chorus sang God Bless America to end the service, Adjutant Mike Moore provided a singular personal acknowledgement by reading the names, accompanied by ringing the memorial bell, of those transferring to Post Everlasting. Moore said, "This moment is sacred with the almost visible presence of those who have gone before...because of them our lives are free, because of them, our nation lives, because of them, the world is blessed. May this service deepen our reverence for our departed comrades."

Hospice Hosts Tribute to Mothers

Community Hospice invites the public to join in a special tribute ceremony in celebration of mothers who have died. Award-winning musician Melanie Edwards will share her melodies of hope and healing. Bring a photo to share at the tribute, which will take place in the Community Center Room 200 on the Saturday before Mother's Day, May 11, at 2 p.m. RSVP to Margaret Capurso at 301-560-6002.

Credit Union's Spring Auto Sale

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*Rate is annual percentage rate. Rate subject to change without notice.

www.greenbeltfcu.com

Mosquitoes, Weapons, Three Stooges Census 2020 – All on Council Agenda

by Kathleen Gallagher

Not even the possibility of a tax increase was enough to bring Greenbelters out to a public hearing held at the April 23 meeting for the purpose of receiving comments on the proposed FY 2020 city budget. A second public hearing will be held during the council meeting of Tuesday, May 28. Mayor Emmett Jordan encouraged residents to take part in the process by sending in comments or attending budget worksessions or the next public hearing. The budget document can be accessed from the homepage of the city website.

Arguably the two items of greatest interest on the business agenda of the April 23 meeting were both continued from earlier meetings: a decision on whether and how to participate in the mosquito control programs conducted by the State of Maryland, and legislation to approve purchase of replacement police service weapons. Also on the agenda were renewal of a contract for a parking ticket management system and several items added by Councilmember Colin Byrd.

Mosquito Control

In September 2017, council discussed entering into the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) Adult Mosquito Surveillance Program. At the time, three neighboring communities had mosquitoes that tested positive for West Nile Virus. Because this is a public health issue, council voted to apply to be put on the waiting list for the MDA program. The city had now ascended to the top of the list and had to decide how to proceed. The program operates on a first-come, first-served basis and the deadline for submitting an application is May 3.

As presented by Assistant Director for Parks Brian Townsend, the city had two options other than dropping out of the program altogether.

(1) The city could opt into the Surveillance Program now and use monitoring, testing for West Nile and then, if the threshold counts of mosquitoes are met, spraying to reduce the adult population of mosquitoes.

(2) The city could enter the Pilot Program using monitoring and testing for West Nile Virus. Spraying would occur within a ¾-mile radius only if there is a positive test for West Nile.

The staff recommendation was at a minimum to enter the Pilot Program in order to determine whether there is West Nile Virus in Greenbelt. Councilmembers agreed that some action was required because of the public

health implications. The Surveillance Program is more aggressive in that it will begin to spray based upon the size of the female mosquito population, which is an indicator that the disease will follow if the mosquito population is growing.

The pilot program is more conservative and allows for more testing to be done to determine if West Nile is present before spraying would begin. After considerable discussion, council voted unanimously to apply for entry into the Pilot program.

Police Weapons

At the prior meeting a resolution was introduced to replace service weapons in the police department through purchase from Atlantic Tactical for \$39,034. The city Replacement Fund includes \$32,000 for replacement handguns, and the balance would be covered through the city's fund balance. Though slightly more expensive than the lowest bidder, Atlantic provides strong customer support.

According to accounts given at the meeting, as well as this paper's coverage of the April 8 meeting in the April 18 issue, there was little discussion of the resolution for purchase on April 8 but there was what the mayor subsequently termed "lively discussion" of the original intent of the police department to sell the old weapons being replaced, with councilmembers and some residents strongly favoring that they be destroyed. When asked at tonight's meeting, Chief Richard Bowers replied that the police undertook additional research. Based on their information and the vote by council it was determined to destroy the old weapons. Councilmember Rodney Roberts and other councilmembers stressed that the intent had been to establish a policy that would assure destruction of such weapons in the future. Before the conversation took off again, City Manager Nicole Ard stepped in to report that she had received such a draft General Order from the department on this policy,

which would come to council for consideration soon.

Parking Ticket

The police department has been working for many years on an annual contract with Complus Data Innovations as its parking citation vendor. On staff's recommendation, the city council voted unanimously to renew the existing contract for a three year term, which will include the provision of updated technology and equipment to the police department.

Petitions & Requests

James Thompson extended an invitation to the council and the public to attend a free showing he is sponsoring at the Old Greenbelt Theatre on Tuesday, May 14 at 8 p.m. of a 1940 Three Stooges film called You Nazty Spy and a series of short films titled The Three Stooges vs. Adolph Hitler. His goal is to encourage the National Film Registry to enter the films in recognition of their historical significance in taking an early stand against Hitler. Thompson referred everyone to the Library of Congress website for more information on the significance of the films, as well as an opportunity to vote on films to be registered.

Other Matters

Council considered several items placed on the agenda by Byrd. They voted unanimously to designate the second Monday of October as Indigenous Peoples Day, which the mayor indicated they had been doing informally for some time.

Byrd also wished to move forward on establishing a theme and name for use with the upcoming census. Councilmember Judith Davis said activity was underway and that the city should wait until more information is available from the state and especially the county for the purpose of coordination. In addition, she said, the matter had been referred to staff for taking the lead and council should wait for staff to respond. The mayor and Councilmembers Edward Putens and Silke

Pope agreed with Davis that the city should wait. It was generally agreed, however, that the city would plan to have its own unique identity as a city within the broader structure.

BUDGET continued from page 1

county will collect the money and provide the city with its share. However, Mayor Emmett Jordan suspected this tax would not result in a lot of revenue for the city.

Property Taxes

FY2020, which starts on July 1, will be the first of three years for which the 2018 assessments will apply. Williams reported that there has been growth in all areas of property taxes excluding commercial properties. The commercial property owners in Greenbelt, in total, have only submitted abatement requests totaling \$14,000, Williams reported, but he reminded council that these requests can be made at any time and be retroactive. Williams is estimating total abatement requests of \$292,500 for the current fiscal year, which ends on June 30, with an additional \$50,000 for abatements for prior fiscal years. He is estimating FY2020 abatements at \$397,900.

Council also discussed ways to protest large abatement requests. Williams said that in the past, the county did not provide the needed information in time to respond. Commercial properties are assessed based upon the income stream of the property so that specialized knowledge is needed that no one on the city staff possesses.

Block Grant

The near completion of Greenbelt Station, which is now 80 percent occupied with an additional 30 to 35 units under construction, poses another revenue risk to the city. Assistant City Manager David Moran pointed out that if parts of Franklin Park are lumped into the same Census tract(s) with parts of Greenbelt

Tuckman Exhibits At GAC Gallery

Local artist Diane Tuckman's silk screen art, wearables and photography are on exhibit through Sunday, May 12 at the Greenbelt Arts Center gallery. Access to the gallery is limited to times when a performance is taking place, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m.

Station, the city may end up with no Census tracts eligible to receive Community Development Block Grant funds.

Revenue Sources

Most of the revenue in the budget comes from personal, residential and commercial property taxes. Such taxes account for 65.6 percent of revenues. Other taxes, such as the city's share of state income taxes, admission and amusement taxes, hotel-motel taxes and highway user taxes, account for 15.5 percent. The remaining 19 percent comes from licenses and permits, funds from other agencies, service charges, fines and miscellaneous.

For most of these categories, the proposed revenue is close to the amount adopted in the current year's budget. A few categories are proposed at significantly different levels. As one would expect with a proposed tax increase, real estate taxes are expected to increase by 6.2 percent. Revenues from traffic cameras are anticipated to drop from the adopted budget of \$360,000 to \$110,000. The proposed level is equal to the estimated levels in the current fiscal year. Two new cameras approved for the current year were delayed until their sites are upgraded to current standards. In addition, the city continues efforts to collect delinquent traffic tickets. Other taxes, as described above, are projected to increase by 12 percent.

On the plus side, the city is now collecting more interest on its investments. The proposed budget estimates receipts of \$200,000, an increase of 67 percent from the adopted FY2019 budget.

STOP the Train: Support the NO BUILD Alternative Green Man Festival

Saturday May 11 (10 AM to 6 PM) and Sunday May 12 (11 AM to 5 PM)
Roosevelt Center, Greenbelt MD

We need everyone that opposes the SC Maglev train project to visit our table at the Green Man Festival to sign and add comments to a prepared letter. We will mail the letters to the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) and officials. These new letters address new details in MTA's Final Alternatives Report, which are of concern. Everyone can sign this letter even those that have already signed a letter. The public is allowed to comment on the new details. We need as many letters as possible. The new infrastructure to support the high-speed trains is massive and will forever change our communities. According to the Report, 2 to 6 trains per hour would be needed. The project will become a burden on Maryland taxpayers. The project will reduce our quality of life, lower property values and destroy precious wildlife habitat.

Brian and Donna Almquist
Greenbelt Advocates for Environmental and Social Justice
Contact us at GreenbeltAdvocates.esj@gmail.com

CAR AUCTION
May 4, 2019 8 a.m.
4E JP Morgan Ct
Waldorf MD 20601



2008 MERCEDES-BENZ
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Crofton, Maryland 21114
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District Heights, Maryland 20747
301-736-7000

Doctors Community Practices at Laurel
(Primary Care and Diabetes Care)
13900 Baltimore Avenue
Laurel, Maryland 20707
301-725-5652

Doctors Community Practices at Riverdale
(Primary Care, Family Medicine and Endocrinology)
6502 Kenilworth Avenue, Suite 100
Riverdale, Maryland 20737
301-927-0088

Doctors Community Practices at Temple Hills
(Primary Care and Family Medicine)
5859 Allentown Way
Temple Hills, Maryland 20728
240-563-1026

Metropolitan Medical Specialists
(Primary Care and Family Medicine)
8116 Good Luck Road, Suite 300
Lanham, Maryland 20706
240-241-7474

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A Review

Come See The Honey Trap at the Arts Center and Have a Blast!

by Jim Link

Never shown before playwright/director Michael Stepowany's *The Honey Trap*, now at the Greenbelt Arts Center, artfully mixes comedy with nuclear menace, rampant xenophobia and political cynicism. Set in a hotel suite in a Las Vegas casino on July 4, 1957, *The Honey Trap* features six motley characters who delight in watching an above-ground atomic bomb test along with patriotic fireworks. This droll entertainment was a cottage industry, according to Stepowany. He credits John le Carré for coining the term honey trap, i.e., pillow talk generated by a seductive spy. Recently the Russian Maria Butina was convicted of such a crime. Though written years ago, the corruption, racism, xenophobia and abuse which appear daily in today's headlines makes *The Honey Trap* very current and topical, according to Stepowany.

Tawny Rucker is very convincing as Flo, a sassy neck-weaving African American chorus girl with a nasal whine and simmering anger. She is courted by Morty, played by the excellent Brian Stepowany (the playwright's son). Morty is an optimistic, innocent Mexican immigrant pursuing the American Dream. Is there gold in the land he inherited from his father? Can he keep his promise to the skeptical Flo?

The award-winning Sandy Irving plays the cynical, smooth warmonger Colonel Brooks with airy aplomb. He uses Orwellian logic: The policy of MAD (Mutually Assured Destruction) is good for the economy! He is trapped in honey by his secretary Lana, played by Angie Bernazani with squeaky-clean vampishness – think of Doris Day laced with a touch of Marlene Dietrich. Joy Liu is very impressive in her very first play as the straitlaced MK, a repressed FBI agent who, mostly futilely, warns Brooks of Lana's duplicity. Unfazed, Brooks tempts MK, "don't you want to



FBI agent MK (Joy Liu, right) identifies herself to Colonel Brooks (Sandy Irving).

- Photos by Kimberly Curren



Flo (Tawny Rucker) greets Beatrice Brooks (Joy Gerst). Mort, the bellhop (Brian Stepowany) has just brought in Beatrice's luggage.

savor the fruit?" Does she loosen up? Go over to the dark side?

Finally, there is Beatrice, long-suffering wife of Colonel Brooks. Played wonderfully by the redoubtable Joy Gerst, Beatrice is whining, obtuse, unreflective, highly entitled and deeply shallow. Gerst's vapidly steals scenes.

As her fantasy bubble life bursts her *cri de coeur* "this can't be happening to me!" is a perfect foil for MK's apocalyptic caveat

"There are consequences!" Songs recorded by Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Sammy Davis, Jr. enhance the play (sound design by Michael Stepowany), as do pictures of Marilyn Monroe (white dress blown up) and other celebrities (set design by Michael George Hartley). Watch this blast on Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. through May 12.

GIVES Seeks New Volunteers

If you've been looking for opportunities to serve your neighbors, The Greenbelt Intergenerational Volunteer Exchange Service (GIVES) can make it easy for you to join in and help. GIVES is seeking new members for this valuable organization that has served Greenbelt residents for over 20 years. The GIVES office phone is staffed to receive member requests for four hours (from 10 a.m. to noon and from 1 to 3 p.m.) every weekday, and we would like to expand into the weekend hours. If office work is not your forté, no problem. Some people just need help with some yard work, light housework, a friendly visit or a trip to the grocery store. Just accept tasks that fit your talents and schedule, on weekends, evenings or whenever your calendar allows.

If you have been wondering what you can do to give back to the community, we would love to hear from you. Call GIVES at 301-507-6580 or email givesoffice@gmail.com.

MDOT Presents Seven Options For I-495/270 Managed Lanes

by Donna L. Hoffmeister

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) State Highway Administration (SHA) held a public workshop on Tuesday, April 23 about the widening of I-495 and I-270. About 50 people attended the 6:30 p.m. presentation at Eleanor Roosevelt High School. The initial 15 options introduced at a workshop on July 17, 2018, have been reduced to seven, eliminating all public transit options, including dedicated bus-only lanes. This lane widening effort would cover 70 miles of highway construction, require a 50-year contract with a private developer and cause a good deal of disruption while it is being built. The preferred solution will be presented in early 2020 with construction beginning in 2023.

The most interesting aspect for Greenbelters was a large computer display with an interactive map of the project. The same map may be viewed and adjusted online at <https://495-270-p3.com> (under Your Participation/Meeting Materials) to show the impact of the six managed lane options on any part of I-495 or I-270. In this map, the light purple shading over Greenbelt indicates that Greenbelt is a protected historic district. The yellow line indicates that the lane widening would have minimal impact for Greenbelt's stretch of I-495. A large chart displayed at the workshop (also available online) tabulates negative impacts to homes, businesses, parks, tree canopy and wetlands because of the added lanes. It shows, for instance, that the plan would require removal of 34 homes and take land from 1500 properties over the entire length of construction. The map shows little impact to Greenbelt Park or the City of Greenbelt itself. It indicates elevated noise levels for the American Legion and Walker Drive businesses, possibly requiring noise walls there, as shown by a red line. The project would complete the Beltway interchange to College Park at Greenbelt Station Road and add off-ramps for the new toll lanes.

In a P3 project (a public private partnership), such as the one the state proposes for highway widening, a private firm provides equity and financing and is responsible for operating the toll lanes. The state retains ownership and ultimate responsibility to ensure the public's needs are met but both the state and the private firm share risks. The money MDOT has already invested would be repaid by the developer. Critics of P3 projects claim that taxpayers often end up paying to make repairs and to keep toll roads safe.

MDOT's workshop aimed primarily to show ways of dealing

with congestion. According to its statistics, an average commuter in the region loses 87 hours and \$2,000 annually while stalled in highway traffic. A color-coded display indicates the amount of time spent in congestion that would be reduced in 2040 by each of the six options. The analysis shows a reduction in peak-hour traffic congestion by at least 20 percent and up to 35 percent. These options include various configurations of high occupancy toll lanes, which may require a toll (though a reduced one), express toll lanes (which require drivers to pay) and general-purpose lanes. Options 13B and 13C for I-270 entail reversible lanes. The greatest time travel-saving requires adding four toll lanes on each highway (Alternatives 8, 9, 10 and 13C).

Some of the problems with toll lanes that MDOT listed include having the slowest vehicle set the pace for all, lower speeds in managed lanes, passing being constrained, less flexibility in adapting to accidents and less reliability. The challenges for the reversible lanes in options 13B and 13C for I-270 include daily maintenance and costs, downtime during changeovers, safety concerns and driver expectancy issues where, for instance, a driver expects to find an exit on the right, when it is sometimes located on the left.

Since this is a state project, citizens may have greater influence on the outcome than they would have if it were a federal project. A Washington Post–University of Maryland poll found that half the state and 54 percent of Montgomery and Prince George's County residents oppose adding toll lanes (Washington Post, October 12, 2018). The workshop, for instance, does not address the concerns of environmentalists. Adding cars to I-495 and I-270 would increase air pollution, which conflicts with state legislative efforts to reduce greenhouse gases by 40 percent by 2030 (see Senate Bill 323 and House Bill 610). The managed-lane study will accept comments until June 14 online at 495-270-p3.com, by email to 495-270-p3@sha.state.md.us or by mail to the Maryland Department of Transportation.

SCHOOLS continued from page 1

can learn," said Thornton. "We need adequate public facilities laws that are aligned with development."

Jordan added that equity is another issue in Greenbelt. "We should all be able to get access to good educational facilities, whether you're going to Greenbelt, Magnolia or Springhill Lake Elementary Schools," he said.

"The differences among our schools is systemic and historical," said Thornton. "And it reflects patterns that have been developed over years that have now been baked into the system."

"We have to make sure there's equity in the allocation of resources in the county," said Thornton.

Sandi Johnson, a Greenbelt resident and former educator for 31 years, is concerned with how and what children are being taught. "We have to be able to replenish those corporate roles, business roles, even those education roles," she said. "How are you going to replenish the [work-

ing] population if you're not preparing today's children for it?"

The next step in the master plan, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future bill, focuses on increasing state spending on expanding pre-kindergarten, increasing teacher salaries and creating community schools in high-poverty areas in the school district.

Thornton added that the blueprint includes new goals and objectives for the school district, like international competitiveness, new expectations for school system performance and increased accountability for resource allocation.

The forum was sponsored by the advisory committees on education for Greenbelt, College Park and Berwyn Heights, the Four Cities Coalition and the Greenbelt Black History Month committee.

Colleen Crowley is a University of Maryland graduate student in journalism reporting for the News Review.

Beltsville Garden Club

PLANT SALE

Saturday, May 11

8 am - noon

High Point High School

Beltsville (parking lot)

Quality plants

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PAID RESEARCH STUDY: WE ARE SEEKING PEOPLE AGES 65-85 WITH MILD HEARING LOSS OR NORMAL HEARING

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Business

Business Column Now Open for Business

The News Review invites Greenbelt businesses to submit brief announcements for the business column. Tell us about events such as new employees, anniversaries, awards won, new programs, and other newsworthy items. Send brief (40-50 words) items to editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com.

Doctors Hospital Makes List Of Best Midsize Employers

Doctors Community Hospital was named in Forbes' 2019 list of America's best midsize employers, the only Prince George's County hospital listed. It was compiled using market research data collected by Statista, which surveyed 50,000 American workers employed at companies with between 1,000 and 5,000 employees.

According to Forbes, Statista conducted anonymous surveys that asked respondents to rate how likely they were to recommend their employers on a scale from zero to 10. Doctors Community Hospital was listed as one of America's best midsize employers in the healthcare and social industry category.

"Employees are our most important resource. Their experiences, skills and compassion helped us become a healthcare leader that is relied on by tens of thousands of area residents," stated Phil Down, president of Doctors Community Hospital.

"We continuously strive to nurture a workplace environment that is valued by our employees. The Forbes recognition is an indicator that our efforts are positively resonating among not only our current employees but even those who work in other industries."

In recent years, the hospital has invested in numerous related initiatives including an employee gym, healthier cafeteria food options, wellness programs and work-life balance benefits. The hospital has also earned the Healthiest Maryland Business Wellness at Work Gold Award, which recognizes exemplary accomplishments in the promotion of workplace health.

"Doctors Community Hospital's mission is 'dedicated to passionately caring,'" stated Down. "We support that belief by not only providing quality care to patients but also by helping our employees reach their professional and personal goals."

Spring in Greenbelt



Bearded irises bloom along Hanover Parkway.

PHOTO BY STEVE BUCCA



Turtles hang out at the Lake.

PHOTO BY CHARLES JACKMAN

Greenbrook Stormwater Pond Retrofit Has July Start Date

by Amy Hansen

Stormwater rushes into the retention pond between Schrom Hills Park and the Greenbrook neighborhood. And that's a problem, according to Clean Water Partnership (CWP).

During an April 24 meeting held in the Community Center, members of CWP described the planned retrofit of the stormwater system so that the county will be in compliance with the federal Clean Water Act.

Located off Hanover Parkway, the pond receives water from the Greenbrook and other neighborhood parking lots, as well as from the Schrom Hills Park area. Water from parking lots often has a lot of dirt and pollutants. During a rain, everything dumps together in a swirling mush and then moves downstream. Eventually it ends up in the Chesapeake Bay.

Engineers plan to stop the rushing by building a forebay into the pond. The shallower bay will force the water to slow down. Once in the forebay, the water will dump the dirt and pollutants. Then, and only then, will the stormwater move into the pond.

The Greenbrook pond retrofit is the latest CWP project. "We use green infrastructure that mimics the natural water cycle," said Clean Water Community Outreach Coordinator Nnamdi Amaechi. "We want the community to be completely informed about the process. We don't want there to be any surprises."

CWP works with Prince George's County, local governments, land owners and engineering firms to meet Clean Water regulations and create healthier landscapes. CWP has already retrofit the forebays near Greenbelt Lake, the stormwater system next to Eleanor Roosevelt High School and the storm drainage system adjacent to Greenbelt Community Church on Crescent Road. Their list of future work includes Greenbelt Elementary School and the stormwater pond on Hanover Parkway near the post office.

Lucian Ramano, vice president of Nardi Construction, said they hope to begin work on the Greenbrook pond in July. The plan, according to engineer Keigen McCormick, is to dredge the pond, making the center deeper. The shallow forebay will be on the edge. The forebay will collect the majority of the litter and the pollutants, and it will be accessible for cleaning later.

The team also plans to install an underwater safety bench that



Plans are for the stormwater retention pond next to Greenbrook to be cleared out and retrofit with a forebay that will help keep the water in the pond clean as well as the water downstream.

- Photos by Amy Hansen



The Clean Water Partnership works with Prince George's County, local governments, land owners and engineering firms to meet Clean Water regulations and create healthier landscapes.

would safeguard against someone falling in and not being able to get out. The bench will be about a foot under water and covered by plants so it won't be visible from the edge of the pond.

All of the construction work will use the existing gravel maintenance road so it should not affect the residents of Greenbrook.

At the end of the project, the crews will install trees and aquatic plants that will also help to slow the water and remove the pollutants. Amaechi added that CWP will install signs that ex-

plain how the system works.

Everyone's goal is clean water. However, these retrofit projects would be expensive if the city had to pay for them. At the April 24 meeting, Terri Hruby, director of planning and community development, explained that working with CWP is a boon to the city. And it's one that keeps on going. "The real benefit to the city is that for the next 30 years the county assumes the maintenance costs of these projects," she said.



The 15th Annual Greenbelt Green Man Festival

May 11th and 12th

Free All day! On the Roosevelt Center Plaza

The festival is a project of CHEARS, the Chesapeake Education Arts and Research Society, with support from the Friends Meeting, and Greenbelt Public Works.

visit
www.greenbeltnewsreview.com



Candidates for GHI Election

The following GHI members have formally indicated their agreement to serve if elected and supplied the following biographical sketches for publication by the Nominations & Elections Committee. GHI Members will elect Nominations & Elections Committee members during the Thursday, May 9 annual meeting. Election of Board of Directors and Audit Committee will begin when the annual meeting goes into recess at the Community Center, and continue Friday at the GHI Office during times listed to the right. Board members are elected to staggered 2-year terms. There are 5 open Board positions in this year’s election, and the other 4 will be elected next year.

Vote!

Annual Meeting
7:30pm Thursday May 9
Community Center

Friday May 10
7–10am & 5–8pm
GHI Board Room
Hamilton Place

Board of Directors 2-Year Term

(Vote for no more than 5)

Chuck Hess

42 Court Ridge

Chuck Hess has served on the Board for twenty-six years, fourteen of which has been as Treasurer. He also has served on the Audit Committee and many other GHI Committees and Task Forces. He believes his major accomplishments are Assuring that GHI cannot be sold unless more than a Thousand members agree, establishing the Replacement Reserves, and increasing the returns on our investments, saving us Hundreds of Thousands of Dollars annually. If it was not for these achievements, GHI would have already borrowed millions with tens of millions more to come. Instead GHI is in solid financial shape.

He is proud of GHI as one of the best Co-ops in the world. He believes that his experience and knowledge will benefit GHI in maintaining its high standards for providing a well-run, efficient, and sustainable home for its members, and looks forward to making it even better in the future.

William Jones

15 Court Ridge

When I retired as a math and computer science professor in 2004, my wife and I asked our only child where we should relocate to be near her. She said the DC area, and that GHI is the best place to live around here. And she was right — it IS the best. She now lives a block from us.

I have been a member of GHI’s Finance and Investment Committees since 2006 and a member of GHI’s Board since 2011. I consider myself a bean-counter, making sure that our members get the best value for their coop fees.

I am also on the Board of the Coop Grocery, and I deliver for Meals On Wheels. I have been Treasurer of the New Deal Cafe. I have also volunteered at Bread For The City, S.O.M.E., Greenbelt Elementary School, Old Greenbelt Theater, and Greenbelt Arts Center.

Sue Ready

30 Court Ridge

Sue Ready first became a member of GHI in 1969—yes, 50 years ago. With a strong commitment to the cooperative, Sue has served on the Board of Directors

12 years, including 2 years as Board president. She has served, often as chair, on numerous committees and task forces.

With a BA in education from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, for twenty delightful years, Sue was a teacher, then director, at the Goddard Child Development Center at GSFC. Then, with a BS in Business and Management from UMUC, she spent 12 years wearing many hats in the finance/accounting department of a non-profit organization in DC.

After a break from her service on the GHI Board during which she enjoyed traveling and spending time in California bonding with her now 4-year-old granddaughter, Sue is refreshed, re-energized and ready to devote herself once again in service to the co-op.

Linda Seely

15 Court Laurel Hill

Linda Seely is a licensed lawyer and Mediator. She is the Director of the American Bar Association Dispute Resolution Section. Her job requires her to manage staff and volunteers, prepare and manage budgets for the Section plus a variety of projects, and oversee various Conference events.

She currently serves on the Board of Directors for GHI and has lived in GHI with her husband since April, 2017. Within GHI, she serves on the Finance Committee, the Legislative and Government Affairs Committee, and the Zoning Taskforce. She has volunteered for the By-laws Review Taskforce. Linda is a member of and volunteers at the OGT.

Linda has served on many nonprofit boards, and as President of several organizations. “I have enjoyed my time on the GHI Board, learned quite a bit, and am ready to serve another term for this community which I have grown to appreciate more every day”.

Steve Skolnik

8 Court Ridge

- Moved to GHI August, 1977 - frame home on Plateau Place
- Moved to block home on Ridge Rd. January, 1981
- B.Sc., University of Waterloo, 1971 - Engineering and Physics
- Master electrician and contractor with over 35-years construction trade experience (retired)

- Current Chair, City of Greenbelt Board of Appeals for over 15 years
- Current member, City of Greenbelt ‘Green Team’
- Current member, GHI Building Committee since 2008
- Current member, GHI Board of Directors since 2013
- Current President, GHI Board of Directors since 2014
- Skills include:
 - Understanding of commercial contracting process
 - Extensive experience managing large projects
 - Excellent communication skills
 - Excellent personnel management skills
 - Understanding of electrical power and distribution systems
 - Special interest in alternative (solar) energy

Anna Socrates

14 Court Ridge

I moved to Greenbelt in December 2007 and have lived on Ridge Road ever since. I soon became involved in GHI and served on the Communications, Marketing, and Nominations and Elections Committees. I am currently a member of the Long-Range Planning Committee and the Additions Maintenance Task Force, in addition to serving on the Board as a replacement director.

I have also volunteered for the City’s Arts Advisory Board and the Greenbelt Museum, and wrote movie reviews for Patch and Greenbelt Online. I’ve gained personal satisfaction and professional growth as a writer through the many opportunities for community involvement here.

The most exciting committee work I have experienced in GHI is membership on the Long-Range Planning Committee, where we are discussing how our cooperative will evolve. I seek to join the Board of Directors to make decisions about our present and have a say in our future.

Audit Committee 1-Year Term

(Vote for no more than 3)

Joyce Campbell

7 Court Plateau

I moved to GHI upon retirement in May of 2017. My husband and I wanted affordable housing in the Metro area where our only daughter lives. We knew about Greenbelt from frequently visiting my sister Marjorie Gray

over the past 20 years. The green of Greenbelt really attracted us too! I believe in co-operative principles and remember writing a paper on co-operative enterprises for a course in economics.

Helping to qualify me for the Audit Committee position is my experience as a legal secretary for several years and also as bookkeeper and then field leader for Resonate Global Mission in the Republic of Guinea. I’ve also served as a deacon in my church and managed a community service center in Dalaba, Guinea. I have a B.A. in history. Healthy institutions are the key to a healthy society and I’d like to contribute to one of them—GHI.

Carol Griffith

55 Court Ridge

My name is Carol Griffith. I would like your consideration for a second term on the Audit Committee.

I bought my GHI home in 2009. Previously, I have served two terms on the Nominations and Elections Committee and have volunteered on the Communications Committee since 2014. For the last two years I have been the co-chair.

I was a registered nurse for 17 years. After leaving nursing I became a paralegal and worked in a variety of legal settings. I pursued a degree in communications and was employed at the USDA as a writer and chief of staff. I retired in September 2018.

I believe my varied career experiences have given me a broad knowledge of the legal and business worlds to bring to the Audit Committee to continue to serve our cooperative.

Thank you for considering me for a second term on the Audit Committee.

Lindsay McAndrew

13 Court Hillside

Lindsay McAndrew has been involved in the Greenbelt community since a young age. Her family has lived in Greenbelt and GHI for three generations. Lindsay joined the GHI community as a home-owner almost two years ago. She is very excited to be taking a community role and serving her fellow co-op members. Lindsay is a technical writer for an engineering firm in Washington D.C. She enjoys gardening, swimming at the Greenbelt pool, and spending time with family. Lindsay looks forward to working with the Board of Directors and fellow co-op members.

Mel Franklin Speaks At the Library



PHOTO BY AMY HANSEN

Prince George's County Councilmember At-Large, Mel Franklin, speaks during the Advisory Neighborhood Community Initiative meeting on April 25 in Greenbelt Library. The project is a countywide community engagement and volunteer service initiative designed to empower communities with information and encourage advocacy. More than 50 people attended to hear Franklin and county staff discuss county services and the Purple Line transit progress.

MAGLEV continued from page 1

an east route or no train at all. The routes are named for the side of the Baltimore-Washington Parkway they hug.

The Federal Railroad Administration is currently in “deliberation” about the two alignments and will make their decision public around July or August, according to Henley.

Henley told the audience that he and his company, “in the interest of being frank,” preferred the east route. The west alternative has longer tunnel segments, which could require additional vent plants.

Both routes have the Maglev passing near Eleanor Roosevelt High School and running underground for the entirety of its path through Greenbelt. The difference, however, is that while the western version would run underneath the Forest Preserve, the eastern route would bypass it completely.

Neither route would have the train emerging above ground until about two miles north of Greenbelt.

Various maps of the two Washington to Baltimore routes were provided with overlays of potential stations, emergency exits, vehicle maintenance and repair sites and ventilation shafts. Approximately 75 percent of the planned route will be underground.

Multiple slides included diagrams of the tunnel boring machines which will cut through dirt at a rate of 40 feet per day while simultaneously laying concrete panels in their wake to form the tube. Seven or eight will operate at once during construction, Henley explained, and despite their size, “you will not hear it, even when it’s digging,” he said.

Noise and vibration limits are specified in the project’s contract. To alleviate residents’ concerns, Henley added, sensors could be installed to monitor noise level and vibrations.

To reach depths of 80 feet – which Henley said is the minimum depth when the Maglev is underground – three-story tall vents will be dug into the earth. In addition, anywhere from five to seven acres is required around each vent for security purposes.

Jordan described the vents as physically “striking” in terms of scale and mass.

Dirt from the boring machines will exit through these shafts, enough to fill 200 trucks each day per site. Vents are planned along Route 410 and a Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission parking lot in Bladensburg, among others.

Barbara Benfield, who is not a Greenbelt resident but was present at the meeting, voiced concerns about where the dirt-filled trucks will go and the amount of traffic they could add to already full roads.

One vent site is located near Route 197, but according to Benfield there are few roads nearby, necessitating the paving of additional paths.

The vents could double as emergency exits when the Maglev

is operating, though currently the designs consist of stairwells, presenting issues for those unable to walk up steps.

Greenbelt resident Bob Snyder, however, spoke in favor of Maglev. With an aging Baltimore-Washington Parkway and growing D.C., Maryland and Virginia population, he said, “I think it’s a good idea to have another choice of transportation.”

When in operation, the Maglev would run from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. There would be around 12 cars per train capable of holding 500 people altogether. A ticket will be a dollar per mile, or \$40 for a 15-minute one-way trip from Washington to Baltimore.

Resident Ruth Haynes quickly called out the cost, saying sarcastically, “we can really afford that on our pensions.”

Henley mentioned a few times, however, that a Maglev route from Washington to Baltimore is not the final plan. While the path could work as a standalone, Henley told the audience the “momentum after this segment will be to go north.”

Ultimately, he said, the route would extend first to Wilmington, then Philadelphia with an endpoint in New York City. Due to the envisioned scale of the project, Henley contended, the Maglev would not conflict with MARC or Amtrak business.

In fact, by 2050 Henley estimated the Maglev will capture only about 16 percent of the traffic between Washington and Baltimore, fueling residents’ sentiments that while the Maglev runs through Greenbelt, the new transportation is not for them.

Brian Almquist, from the Greenbelt Advocates for Environmental and Social Justice, delivered a fiery statement. He went so far as to call the project – whose target, he posited, is wealthy business people rather than interregional traffic – a “boondoggle,” which he defined as a useless or wasteful activity.

“Bottom line is to me we’re not really benefiting,” Susan McCutcheon from Bladensburg said in agreement. Instead, she continued, the route would benefit those passing through Maryland while taking advantage of those who “don’t have anyone to speak (for us) except ourselves.”

Henley was quick to challenge McCutcheon’s statement, though, saying “community voices helped shaped this outcome.” He cited multiple differences between the current versions of the routes and the initial alternatives.

He continued, “I would just not underestimate your power.”

After the FRA selects a preferred route in the next few months, five corridor-wide public hearings will be held, including in Anne Arundel and Prince George’s counties and Baltimore. The draft Environmental Impact Statement is slated to be completed at the end of the year.

Theresa Diffendal is a University of Maryland graduate student in journalism reporting for the News Review.



Candidates for GHI Election (continued)

Nominations & Elections Committee 1-Year Term (Vote for no more than 5)

Alex Barnes
4 Court Crescent

I joined the N&E Committee in early 2016, shortly after becoming a GHI member. I find myself unenthusiastic about continuing to serve at this time, but in the absence of someone else volunteering to serve, I am willing to continue. Since the previous election I have found full time employment, so finding time for family, friends and self has been more challenging. You probably have the same experience.

Theresa R. Henderson
1 Court Laurel Hill

Theresa was born and raised in the Washington, D.C. area. She has lived in GHI since 1983. She currently enjoys living on Laurel Hill Rd. with her husband Steve, their two adult children Maddy and Steven, their two cats and a bird. She is currently employed at the USDA Beltsville Human Nutrition Re-

search Center. She is actively involved with the Greenbelt Tennis Association, and is a member of Greenbelt Community Church and the Hemophilia Association of the Capital Area. She is presently serving on the Nominations and Elections Committee for her sixth term and enjoys working with the other committee members and staff.

Tom Jones
1 Court Woodland

Tom was raised on Northway and has been a GHI member since 1997. He has a Bachelor’s degree in Physics and an MBA, and works as a Program Manager for the University of Maryland Center for Advanced Transportation Technology Laboratory (CATT Lab). Tom has served on N&E for 5 years, including 4 as chair.

In 2010, Tom chaired the Finance Report Subcommittee that drafted revisions now implemented to make each year’s report easier to understand. In 2011, he chaired the GHI website redesign committee resulting in the new www.ghi.coop site.

Tom also served on the Audit Committee for the New Deal Café for 5 years, the Board of Directors of Rapidan Camps for 22 years,

and has been on the News Review Board of Directors since 2014—all cooperatives from Greenbelt.

Luisa F. Robles
32 Court Ridge

I have lived in GHI since the spring of 2001 (18 years!). I bumped into GHI while pursuing my PhD at UMD. I came to see a movie at the theater and fell in love with the Roosevelt Center and the friendliness of people. My degree was in environmental sciences and sustainable development and I am now the Sustainability Coordinator for the City. I have served on the Board of Directors and the Woodlands Committee for GHI and on the Forest Preserve for the City.

Mary Salemme
1 Court Woodland

I grew up in Riverdale and moved to GHI in 2017. I love the community feel and cooperative spirit here in Greenbelt. My background is in IT. I was a DNS administrator for many years and now do technical project management for a network engineering group at a large communications company. I am currently serving on the Nominations and Elections Committee and would like to continue participating.

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Sports

Greenbelt Little League Cubs
Defeat Laurel Red Sox, 13-6

by Amy Knesel

On Tuesday night, the Greenbelt Cubs went up against the Laurel Red Sox at MacDonald Field for their fourth game of the season. After a strong showing by both teams, including two runs scored by the Red Sox in the last inning, the Cubs closed out the night in the lead, winning 13-6.

Chase Goddard, 8, who was the first Cub up to bat and scored the first run of the night, says their opponent had made strides since their last meeting two weeks ago. Graham Marcavitch, 9, says that he enjoys playing for the Cubs. "It can be hard work, but it's so much fun playing with my friends!"

Cubs Coach Craig Hebert says, "The kids really kept their heads up today. It was a great game – every kid got a hit and every kid got a run, so I can't ask for anything more!"




Sports fans, some just dreaming of the day they can play, too, watch as the Cubs play the Laurel Red Sox in Tuesday's game at McDonald Field.

- Photos by Gary Childs



Batta batta SWING! The bat disappears as a Cubs pitcher smokes a Laurel Red Sox hitter; the Cubs' first baseman reacts.



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Greenbelt Park Events

Saturday, May 4: Outdoor Stewardship Volunteer Event. Join the Invasive Plant team who monitor and repel the growing threat of invasive plants and insects in Greenbelt Park. Learn valuable information that not only helps the park but can help protect vulnerable species. Meet at the Sweetgum Picnic Area at 11 a.m.

Saturday, May 4: Campfire Program featuring the Greenbelt Museum. Campground guests and the public are welcome to a traditional NPS campfire program under the stars featuring Megan Searing Young from the Greenbelt Museum. Meet at Campfire Circle in B-Loop in the campground at 8 p.m.

Sunday, May 5: White-tailed Deer. What is the difference between a horn and an antler? What do deer eat? Meet at the Ranger Station at 9 a.m. to learn the answers to these questions and more.



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Two Additions 2 Bedroom GHI home with front addition & full bath on main level. Porch addition opens onto large deck & wooded backyard.

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Rain Garden Cleanup Starts Woodlands Caretaker Effort

by Tom Taylor

An enthusiastic group of volunteers undertook a cleanup of the rain garden at 6 Court Plateau Place on April 27 as part of the new Caretaker Program launched recently by the Greenbelt Homes, Inc. (GHI) Woodlands Committee. The cleanup was organized in conjunction with the GHI Community-Wide Cleanup Day.

The Caretaker Program was approved by the GHI Board of Directors as a volunteer effort to help maintain GHI common areas, including the three rain gardens. For this program, the Woodlands Committee is seeking volunteers with knowledge of forest and wetlands ecology and some plant knowledge and familiarity with plant life cycles.

Working under a glorious sun and mostly cloudless sky, 12 volunteers removed invasive plants and weeds, pruned trees and planted new native plants. A total of 19 bags of compostable weeds, five containers of invasive plant material and bundles of pruned branches were removed from the garden. More than 50 replacement native plants, donated by GHI resident Katrina Boverman, were planted to replace original plantings that had been accidentally removed or had died over the years.

The volunteers included a strong contingent of 6 Court Plateau Place residents, members of the GHI Storm Water Management Task Force and the Woodlands Committee plus other GHI members. Another six volunteers, plus GHI maintenance staff, provided behind-the-scenes support that included pre-cleanup organizing and publicity, providing tools and pre-cleanup leaf removal. Snacks and water also were provided by volunteers. The cleanup was organized by Beth Olsen, one of the new caretakers and a member of the task force.

“It’s a good community effort,” said 6 Court resident Jan Garland. “It’s so cool that Greenbelt does these kinds of things and supports the green land.”

Pat Novinski, of Laurel Hill Road, offered that “participating makes me feel more connected to the green in Greenbelt, especially in GHI.” She added, “I’ve met people today that I would not have met otherwise.”

“I’m just here for the good times, and they needed some male representation,” said Scott Lubey of Plateau Place.

Mariel Friberg, also of Plateau Place, observed that “learning about invasive species and native plants is good. Plus, it’s fun.”

As they worked, volunteers



From left: Scott Lubey, Mariel Friberg, Beth Olsen, Patricia Novinski and Jan Garland pose after cleaning up the rain garden at 6 Court Plateau Place.

- Photos by Beth Kuser Olsen



Mariel Friberg and Beth Olsen work on the rain garden.

were happy to find a large colony of native violets, which are the prime host plants for fritillary butterfly caterpillars. The term fritillary refers to the checkered markings on the wings. In the afternoon, as the replacement plants were bedded into the ground, participants also were excited to discover another plant that is not normally found in the GHI woodlands, and named it “the find of the day.”

The 6 Court Plateau rain garden was the second of three rain garden systems installed in GHI. A rain garden is a landscape and storm water management tool that offers many environmental benefits while providing valuable habitat and adding natural color and beauty. A strategically placed and well-designed garden captures excess rainwater from roofs, gutters and paved areas

and uses native plants and special soils to absorb and filter the water.

The Plateau Place rain garden was completed in 2007, following the installation of the first garden at 33 Court Ridge Road in 2006. GHI’s newest rain garden, at 20 Court Ridge Road, was completed in 2018. For more information about these rain gardens and how they function, go to the GHI website and search rain gardens under the new “Sustainable GHI” tab on the home page. Caretaker volunteers are needed to help maintain all three gardens.

Individuals interested in participating in the Caretaker Program should contact Greg Eck, the GHI staff liaison to the Woodlands Committee at 301-474-4161, ext. 137, or geck@ghi.coop.

2019 Green Man Festival Dedicated to Mother Earth

by Jean Newcomb

On Saturday and Sunday, May 11 and 12, the Greenbelt Green Man Festival will commemorate 15 years of fun and festivities while it celebrates the goddess, Gaia.

When the Green Man Festival was first planned in 2005, no one thought it would become a recurring annual event, much less reach its 15-year anniversary. But among the many visitors, vendors, volunteers and artists who have participated over the years, there was a central figure inspiring them to keep its spirit alive. That figure was Gaia, also known as Mother Earth or the Green Woman. In the interest of leaving not a single being out, this year’s festival is dedicated to the Gaia.

Past celebrations have always been inclusive. Participants may dress in drag or simply wear something greenish. The festival is a place where dogs can become bees, babies are fairies, boys shape-shift into all manner of leafy greens and delightful masks abound.

Who is Gaia?

Like the archetype of the Green Man, Gaia is a figure found in the myths of many cultures. Sometimes soulmates or even best friends, both Green Man and Gaia have captured unique places in the history of

storytelling. At this year’s festival, participants acknowledge the bond between the Green Man and Gaia.

Known by many names, this feminine deity is believed to have been worshipped since the Stone Age. A planetary goddess, she has been recognized for eons. Ancient Greeks wrote in a hymn to Gaia: “Of Earth I sing, eldest of all and Mother of the Gods.” In her mythological origins, Gaia gives birth to the plants, animals, titans, gods, goddesses and finally humans; she is the mother of all. Joseph Campbell, a world-renowned mythologist, observed that by being able to view Earth as radiant and singular, suspended in a cosmic sea, people might begin to acknowledge their place in time and space. The realization that all beings are born of this same mother presses humanity to seek a better understanding of our place in a rapidly changing world.

Today, in the face of climate change, the Green Man Festival aims to remind Greenbelt that humans have the power to rebalance the scale from chaos to less extreme weather patterns. Organizers hope that Gaia, like the Green Man, can inspire people to become the change that’s needed. (See ad on page 10.)



PHOTO BY JEAN NEWCOMB

Greenman Festival welcomes Gaia (Mother Earth).

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